

## **Fair Political Practices Commission Memorandum**

To: Chairman Johnson, Commissioners Hodson, Huguenin, Leidigh, and Remy  
From: Whitney Barazoto, Legislative and Communications Coordinator  
Mark Krausse, Executive Director  
Subject: Legislative Report  
Date: February 21, 2007

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Bills continue to be introduced until the February 23 deadline for introduction. Below is a summary of bills that have been introduced as of the date of this memorandum. The first stop for these bills is in the policy committee of their respective houses; these hearings will likely occur in March and April. A bill must be in print for 30 days before being considered in its first committee.

<b>Bills Amending the Political Reform Act</b>		
<b>Bill # (Author)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Introduced/Amended</b>

<b>AB 65 (Dymally)</b>	<b>PRA: legislative caucuses</b>	<b>I-12/04/06</b>
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This bill would specify that a member of the Senate or Assembly may make payments of up to \$5,000 to each recognized Senate, Assembly, or Senate and Assembly caucus as expenditures associated with holding office. These expenditures would have to be reported to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate, or both by the following January 15. The bill would also prohibit a person from making, and a Senator or Assembly Member from receiving, a contribution of campaign funds intended for a caucus.

**Status: Introduced in Assembly**

<b>AB 78 (Torrico)</b>	<b>PRA: interest on campaign accounts</b>	<b>A-02-14-07</b>
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This bill would require all committees regulated under the Political Reform Act to establish campaign accounts, report certain information on those accounts, and transfer the interest earned on the accounts of candidate-controlled committees to the State Treasury. The funds collected by the State Treasury on these accounts would be continuously appropriated to the commission for carrying out of its duties under the Act. This appropriation would be in addition to those appropriations already provided in the Act. The interest from accounts that relate to ballot measure campaigns would go into a sub-account to be spent solely for regulating ballot measure campaigns.

**Status: Introduced and amended in Assembly**

<b>AB 299 (Tran)</b>	<b>Maintenance of the Codes</b>	<b>I-02-09-07</b>
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This bill makes technical changes to multiple code sections at the recommendation of Legislative Counsel. The sections of the Political Reform Act that are amended by this bill include Government code sections 85316 and 89513. The changes are minor and technical.

**Status: Introduced in Assembly**

**AB 357 (Mendoza) PRA: legal funds I-02-14-07**  
This bill would allow legal defense funds that are not subject to contribution limits to be used to pay attorney's fees and costs related to election recounts and election contests. It also specifies that these expenses would be included in the list of expenditures that are exempt from voluntary expenditure limits.

**Status: Introduced in Assembly**

**AB 404 (Ruskin) PRA: advertisement disclosure I-02-15-07**  
This bill would require that advertisements paid for by independent expenditures expressly state that the ad was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.

**Status: Introduced in Assembly**

**AB 473 (Adams) PRA: filing campaign statements I-02-20-07**  
This Commission-sponsored bill would eliminate the requirement to file copies of campaign statements with a committee's county of domicile and reduce the requirement to file two copies of reports with local filing officers to one copy.

**Status: Introduced in Assembly**

**Position: Sponsor**

**SB 131 (Battin) PRA: conflicts of interest I-01-24-07**  
This bill makes technical changes to a section of the conflicts-of-interest provisions of the Political Reform Act. It appears to be a "spot" bill.<sup>1</sup>

**Status: Introduced in Senate**

**SB 217 (Cogdill) PRA: conflict-of-interest code I-02-09-07**  
This bill designates the county board of education instead of the county board of supervisors as the code reviewing body for a school district in a multi-district county, a county office of education, a regional occupation center or program, or a school-related joint powers authority located wholly within a single county. The Superintendent of Public Instruction would be the code reviewing body for a county board of education, a county office of education of a county with only a single school district, or a school district of a county with only a single school district. This bill also designates the California Community College Board of Governors as the code reviewing body for all community college districts.

**Status: Introduced in Senate**

**SB 298 (Cogdill) PRA: major donor reporting I-02-15-07**  
This Commission-sponsored bill would increase the major donor reporting threshold, from \$10,000 to \$30,000. It would also increase the threshold for major donor notification from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

**Status: Introduced in Senate**

**Position: Sponsor**

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<sup>1</sup> A "spot" bill is a placeholder measure introduced in anticipation of substantive language that may later be amended into the bill.

<b>Bills Not Amending the Political Reform Act</b>		
<b>Bill # (Author)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Introduced/Amended</b>
<b>AB 120 (Laird)</b> Assembly budget bill. <b>Status: Introduced in Assembly</b>	<b>2007-08 Budget</b>	<b>I-01-10-07</b>
<b>AB 397 (Adams)</b> This bill would prohibit a local agency from paying membership dues to an organization that makes monetary contributions to a political campaign, including, but not limited to, a campaign for or against a statewide or local initiative. <b>Status: Introduced in Assembly</b>	<b>Local agencies: membership dues</b>	<b>I-02-15-07</b>
<b>HR 1 (De La Torre)</b> This House Resolution adopts the Rules of the Assembly for the 2007-08 Regular Session and includes, among other things, a reiteration of the rule in Government Code section 81012 which allows amendment of the Political Reform Act by 2/3 vote of each house, if the Commission received a copy of the bill in its final form at least 12 days prior to passage in each house. <b>Status: Adopted by Assembly<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2007-08 Assembly Standing Rules</b>	<b>A-12-04-06</b>
<b>SB 54 (Ducheny)</b> Senate budget bill. <b>Status: Introduced in Senate</b>	<b>2007-08 Budget</b>	<b>I-01-10-07</b>
<b>SCR 1 (Scott)</b> This Senate Concurrent Resolution adopts the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly for the 2007-08 Regular Session and includes, among other things, a requirement that the author of any PRA bill notify the Assembly Chief Clerk or the Secretary of the Senate of the nature of the bill in order for the Assembly Chief Clerk or the Secretary of the Senate to deliver a copy of the bill to the Commission at least 12 days prior to passage in either house per Government Code section 81012. <b>Status: Adopted by Assembly and Senate, Chaptered (Res. Chapter 2, Statutes of 2007)</b>	<b>2007-08 Senate and Assembly Joint Rules</b>	<b>C-01-09-07</b>

<sup>2</sup> Bills or resolutions shaded in grey have been chaptered or adopted, respectively.